

## Position of Women in Germany

Helene Lange, the Admiration of the Conservatives.

THE woman's movement began in Germany in 1865. At that time a society was formed at Leipzig called "Allgemeine Deutsche Frauenverein"—General German Women's Union. Its purpose was to promote the possibility of women earning their bread and of getting a better education. In the course of a year or two a meeting was held to which women from all parts of Germany were invited. Then the movement became national, although a very small number of women took part in the conference. There were few newspapers, railroads and communication was slow. Since the beginning in 1865, unions have been formed in all the larger places. Their first work was to found industrial schools for girls; also the establishment of advanced schools. These were for the better classes of women who would have liked to enter the university; but these being closed, the object was to prepare the way for higher culture. Lectures were given on art, literature, languages and the sciences. One of these large schools is in Berlin—the Victoria Lyceum—there are the same professors, the university, and as many as twenty courses are given in one winter. Women teachers in Germany began to have organizations among themselves. Then trade unions followed for women clerks, and different societies were formed with special objects in view. The sole purpose of most was to open the university doors to women. It was called "Frauen-Bildung—"Frauen-Studium." Afterward came the union at Hamburg to secure the ballot for women, and was at liberty to ally with the suffragists. It was called "Allgemeine Deutsche Frauenverein." Every state in Germany has a different law about unions. Women have been permitted to join to organize associations, but they are not allowed to speak about political matters in their societies. Everywhere in Germany has a right to hold public meetings and at these any subject can be discussed. The limitations are about organizations, and individuals, there is perfect freedom. The police may send a representative, but it is not obligatory. However, these public meetings must be held in a hall or in a room previous to the police headquarters. The prohibitory law spoken of was that of Prussia. That being the largest state in Germany, it had the most stringent legislation. The organization in Hamburg was called the Union for Women Suffrage.

### Political Organizations for Women Spreading.

A few months ago, after the organization of the International Women's Rights association in Berlin, the Hamburg society changed its name to the National Union for Women Suffrage. It is the only organization of a political nature among women in Germany, but now its members are free to join to form associations of a similar character in other parts of the country. Eleven years ago the National German women's council was formed in Germany; thirty organizations joined; now there are 178. All the progressive women of Germany advocate political equality of the sexes. Three years ago, at the last National Women's council meeting held at Wiesbaden, a resolution was passed to the effect that the franchise vote was unanimous. There were 200 delegates present, representing 70,000 women—all the organized womanhood of Germany. Helene Lange, an exponent of the radicals—Helene Lange that of the conservatives; both stood for the same idea, but while the latter advocated a slow and steady education, the former desired to push the one idea to its speedy fulfillment. Among the new women of Germany are to be found the extreme and those who wear short hair and affect, as much as possible, the appearance of men in their attire; others wear the reform dress, which is a loose and simple affair after the fashion of the French empire, while still others are as women of the rational school around the world. All movements have their seasons of ebb and flow in the initiative stages of development, before the settling time comes of sensible crystallization in accepted forms. The woman's rights movement in America had its era of crooked locks, its bloomers, its Mary Walkers, before it resolved itself into the dignified cause of today with clear-headed, cultured, well-dressed women as its leaders.

### Movement in a Transitory State as Yet.

In Germany the whole woman's movement is in a transitory state—the passing from the subjective of centuries to the objective possibilities of the present day. The unusual woman here, who offends in dress and idea, is to be regarded more in the light of an individual, than as the representative of a movement. Those who belong to the progressive, thoughtful branch of the woman's cause realize that women are different from men; they want to bring the influence of woman into public life, not to minimize the power of men, but simply for women to attain a position of equality. They do not say that women are better than men; but, as they are unlike them, that both in intellect and in character they are different. They strive now for equality of opportunity. Throughout the nation there are separate schools for the sexes, except universities, and, even in them, is a novelty for men and women to be in the same classes. It was only twelve years ago that women began to be admitted to the universities; before that time they had been tolerated only as listeners. Thirty years ago German women went to Switzerland to study. Their first woman physicians were trained from the leading institutions of that country. Only in Baden and Württemberg are women admitted to the universities on the same basis as men; in the others, simply as a courtesy. When a man wants to enter a university, he can choose, with a woman, it is different. She has to get the consent of the director of the university of her choice, as well as that of each of the professors under whom she has to study. Often the latter will not allow a woman to enter the class of anatomy or the laboratories; then she has to search for an institution where women are granted these privileges. The conditions of entering a university are to have taken a full course at the gymnasium. At the gymnasium, children can begin at 6 and leave at 13; but they have to pass an examination in the gymnasium; and this, if successfully accomplished, gives the students the right to enter any university in Germany. While every state has a different law governing universities, yet there is a general system of examination throughout the empire, which leads up to the university.

### Helene Lange's Efforts for Women.

In 1880, Fraulein Helene Lange founded a gymnasium where girls were trained for the entrance examination of the university. The course takes four years. There was a class prepared to enter the university for the first time twelve years ago. Heidelberg and Freiburg were the first universities in Germany to open their doors to women. Then came the others, a little later. All the German universities are now open to women; but to only those who have passed the entrance examination for the university, or the examination for teachers, and only those who have passed the entrance examination can get a degree. There are four degrees in Germany: Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Divinity

and Doctor of Law. Fifty women have received their degrees, either that of Doctor of Philosophy or Doctor of Medicine. There has been no woman Doctor of Divinity up to date; only three Doctors of Law. They finished in Switzerland. There are perhaps thirty who hold the degree of Doctor of Medicine, but many of these also secure their distinction in Switzerland. These women have entered actively upon their profession; ten or twelve live in Berlin and have a large practice. No woman has yet tried to preach in Germany, except those in the Salvation Army. No woman has been admitted to the bar. In the Berlin university there are six hundred and forty-five women students, hailing from seventeen different countries. Among them are four hundred and seventy-three Germans. Of all the women students forty-nine are studying medicine, five law, eighteen theology and five hundred and seventy-three philosophy. There are forty-nine Americans in their midst.

### Russians Study Problem, How to Make Their Country Free.

There are many Russian women in the German universities; they first entered in 1882, as soon as the doors were opened to women. In Berlin, at present, there are eighty-two Russian women students, but, after they learn the German language a most cordial relationship is established between them and the German students. Most of the Russians are socialists and are very poor. They come to the great German universities to secure the ballot for women, and the self-sufficiency they are obliged to practice in order to accomplish their purpose is most admirable. Of the higher middle class, women are daughters of government officials and of merchants. Some are of the nobility of the wealthy in means, and a very few of the wealthy aristocracy. There are about one thousand women students now in Germany; most of these are compelled to earn their bread. The number of students is limited on account of the strenuous effort required for preparation. There are scores of organizations, and individuals, there is perfect freedom. The police may send a representative, but it is not obligatory. However, these public meetings must be held in a hall or in a room previous to the police headquarters. The prohibitory law spoken of was that of Prussia. That being the largest state in Germany, it had the most stringent legislation. The organization in Hamburg was called the Union for Women Suffrage.

### Manifesting Interest in Club Work.

Clubs are beginning to interest German women. Their first was organized last year, there are now two. There are now two German women's clubs in the city; one was formed chiefly for social pleasure, and is composed of society women. They have their billiard-room, library, and there was no place for the women. There are different examinations for those who want to be teachers or judges or to enter other professions. The latter course is the more difficult, the former to the positions. There are now two German women's clubs in the city; one was formed chiefly for social pleasure, and is composed of society women. They have their billiard-room, library, and there was no place for the women. There are different examinations for those who want to be teachers or judges or to enter other professions. The latter course is the more difficult, the former to the positions.

### Field Being Broadened for Woman's Advancement.

Nearly forty years ago, when the first Lette Verein was formed, the women of Germany had only two occupations open to them—housewifery and governess—and their wages were very small. On one memorable occasion, there was a call for a governess; in the course of eight days there were answers from 114 women. The Lette Verein was the first industrial school established in Germany. Since then they have been placed in all parts of the empire; fashioned after this model, and founded by women's unions. Only within the last few years are some established and supported by the state. Since the founding of these industrial schools, women have entered numerous vocations; all are permitted to them. They are typewriters, stenographers, typewriters and stenographers, about 20,000 trained nurses and many librarians and prison matrons. They are also filling places bestowed by the state—such as telephone and telegraph operators and railway ticket agents, as well as superintendents of prisons and insane asylums, and inspectors of factories. The only state where a woman is inspector, and not simply a superintendent, is the Grand Duchy of

Baden; but, in many other states they act as assistants. The best position as a teacher opened to women is in the gymnasium for girls; very few are occupying this, but there are many in the girls' high schools; and in private schools, there are many lady principals. In the public high schools, a man is always director under the state or municipality and a woman is appointed by the state as assistant to the director. Many women have gone into journalism and others have become sculptors and public speakers. There is a Woman's Lecture Bureau in Mannheim. Women are engaged in horticulture, in bookkeeping, as directors of laundries, as conductors in pharmacies and in clothing establishments. When women have entered the professions of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy, they are many lady principals. Examinations as men. Business colleges have been established for the training of women for commercial purposes. On this account the government has taught book binding, porcelain making and weaving; agriculture, bee culture, bird breeding and dairy work. There are women who are also agents. The founder of the women's movement in Germany was Fraulein Louise Otto-Peters, who was also the first woman lecturer in that country. Her first address was delivered in 1818; in the same year, she took an active part in the revolution. Her famous declaration was that the women who were not to be forgotten. Her real, great effort was the organization of the German Women's Union in 1865, whose purpose was to open the university doors to women. The starting point of the whole women's movement in Germany. The union still exists and has its headquarters in Leipzig. Otto-Peters, the woman most loved and revered in Germany is Helene Lange, who was also a pioneer in the women's movement. She is a distinctively the admiration of the conservatives and, in her establishment of the gymnasium for girls, she has placed all German women under a debt of gratitude.

### Dr. Alice Salomon's Splendid Work.

Among the younger women of splendid brain power and brilliant future is Fraulein Dr. Alice Salomon, who is president of a union for women in Berlin. Its object is to get all the girls and women of the working classes to give part of their time to social work. They are to limit the kindergarten, afternoon schools, charity organizations, to schools for the blind and to working girls' clubs. At these places the nurses, the social system exists in Germany, and no reliable wage statistics except for the purpose of the labor insurance. Different localities have different wages, but they are generally very low, and those given to women are always smaller than those received by men for doing exactly the same kind and amount of work, from two-thirds to one-half lower. An effort is now being made in the women's movement to secure a ten-hour limit to the working hours of women. At one meeting at present given a law allowing them to stay at home longer than the period at present given. The philanthropic woman, in addition, want to get protective laws for the home industries—as those in the sweatshops. There are no statutes concerning the latter at all. The women employed work from morning until night, in crowded rooms with many girls absorbed in their work, and which is perfectly foul. Employers prefer that the women work in their own apartments, because that saves man working hours, and saves light and heat. The women get pitiful wages. For the purpose of securing better laws the intelligent women hold great meetings, and attend to the most important resolutions are passed, propositions for statutes are made and petitions are sent through representatives to the legislative bodies. The question is agitated through the press.

### The Sweating System in Germany.

Last year a congress was held in Berlin to discuss the idea of securing a reform of the sweating system. It was arranged by the trades unions; but all social reformers took part in it. At this congress there was an exposition of the work done under the sweating system. On each article was written how long it took to make it and what pay was received. It was found that in some cases the women laborers get only 14 cents for an hour's work. They are enabled to live by the help which they receive from associations. Most of these women have husbands who are not able to support their families—so their wives are forced into the struggle for bread. There are hundreds and thousands of women in this sweating system. As long as a woman is unmarried she has the same property rights as men before the civil law. As soon as she marries, she has to transfer the management and use of her property to her husband unless it is prevented in a marriage contract, which may be done. In England and America there is a separation of property between husband and wife, but in Germany the woman's power is limited simply to the ownership of her possessions. If, after marriage, the wife acquires property, her husband can lay no claim to it except he can demand that she contribute to the expenses of the household, if necessary. The wife has absolute authority in the home, while the husband has the same in

business affairs, as long as he does nothing criminal. When a husband dies the wife gets a part of the property and has the right to manage it for their children; but, of course, these provisions can be changed by the will of the husband. In case of divorce, the custody of the children is given to the innocent party. In public law women have not the right of franchise in the empire, nor in the state, but in some municipalities they have to a limited degree. In rural communities they are allowed to vote in all municipal affairs. However, even there, fully the women who own real estate can vote.

### Women Must Have Money Before Marrying.

It is the general custom in Germany for a man to not marry a woman unless she has some money. Often young persons have to wait for years and years before they are wedded. Those who enter the civil service frequently

### Child Labor Not Allowed Before the Thirteenth Year.

Child labor is now not allowed before the thirteenth year, and then only a few hours a day. Children are compelled to go to school until they are 14. Although that last year they can attend school some hours. Child labor is used in distributing papers and bread in the morning, and there are many on the streets selling flowers, but they are kept from heavier forms of labor. The children from 14 to 16 years of age are not allowed to work longer than ten hours a day in the factories, and women may work no longer than eleven hours, and they are not permitted to work in the mines, and are not allowed during the night, nor under the surface of the earth; for instance, in mines. A woman who is married must have an hour and a half for dinner, but if unmarried, she gets only one hour at that time. A woman who has borne a child is not allowed to work in a factory for four to six weeks afterwards. These are the principal regulations concerning the labor of women and children. There are no restrictions limiting the working hours of men, and under conditions that are hurtful to them; such as those which prevail in chemical works and similar places. The social work, however, is limited to the hours of work for men in all employments that are unhealthful. There are certain rules which concern the safety of health and life. No girl wage system exists in Germany, and no reliable wage statistics except for the purpose of the labor insurance. Different localities have different wages, but they are generally very low, and those given to women are always smaller than those received by men for doing exactly the same kind and amount of work, from two-thirds to one-half lower. An effort is now being made in the women's movement to secure a ten-hour limit to the working hours of women. At one meeting at present given a law allowing them to stay at home longer than the period at present given. The philanthropic woman, in addition, want to get protective laws for the home industries—as those in the sweatshops. There are no statutes concerning the latter at all. The women employed work from morning until night, in crowded rooms with many girls absorbed in their work, and which is perfectly foul. Employers prefer that the women work in their own apartments, because that saves man working hours, and saves light and heat. The women get pitiful wages. For the purpose of securing better laws the intelligent women hold great meetings, and attend to the most important resolutions are passed, propositions for statutes are made and petitions are sent through representatives to the legislative bodies. The question is agitated through the press.

### Shop Girls Now Number Sixteen Thousand in Berlin.

In 1889, Frau Cauer organized 300 shop girls, now the figure is 16,000 in Berlin. In the whole of Germany, there are 120,000. The object of the organization was to get situations for the girls. There are three classes of them. The first only belong and may receive only situations. The second get, in addition, the benefit, free medicine, free medical attention, free milk and other things free while ill. The third receive not only all this but free hospital service for three weeks and a certain amount of money each day during times of sickness. A large commercial school has been established for these girls, where typewriting and stenography are taught. When they are not well, they are sent to different bath places in Germany and other resorts for recreation. When they get into difficulties, lawyers are sent to help them, and they are not allowed to pay. When they are out of a position (situation), they get one mark a day. The trades organizations among women are very small in comparison to those existing among the men. Most of the women consider their work as a transitory condition; they expect to marry, or if they are wedded, their wages are regarded as simply

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do not get a situation until they are 30, and then it is a very modest income. This system largely accounts for numerous unhappy marriages and the low estimate placed upon women—because they are valued according to the amount of money they have. Many poor, but lovely girls, never have an opportunity to marry. In the army the money question is stringent. A man must have a certain income or he cannot become an officer; neither can he marry a woman without property unless he has an income of his own. According to the census of 1900, there were 82,684 more women in Germany than men. With the poverty existing there, and the money value placed on marriage, it should not be a cause for amazement that women are moving to the front with such marvelous power in the great company of those who strive to win.

(Copyright by Belle Kearney, author of "A Slaveholder's Daughter.")

## PREPARE FOR SUMMER

Assist nature in getting the system ready for the depressing Summer months.

The change of Nature from Winter and Spring to Summer is no greater than the change that takes place in our physical systems at this season, and few can undergo it without some manifestation of disorder. Some have no particular ailment but are just worn out and tired, with their energies so depleted that they are totally unfit for work or physical exertion of any kind. The appetite is variable, they are peevish, hysterical, and often unreasonable, the digestion is imperfect, the stomach deranged and altogether they are mere drags in their every day life. To others the return of Summer means the return of disease, for warm weather is sure to force out the hidden poisons and seeds of disease which have accumulated in the blood during the Winter, and some old chronic trouble makes its appearance. Boils, Eczema, Tetter, Acne, scaly eruptions, rashes, pimples, etc., break out also at this time, and the heated season is made worse by the burning and itching of these skin tortures.

### HER SYSTEM BROKEN DOWN.

Gentlemen!—For over four years I suffered from general debility, causing a thorough breaking down of my system, and I was unable to attend to my household duties. I had tried other medicines which did not relieve me. Seven years ago my cousin, who had been benefited by S. S. S., told me about it. I tried it, and it cured me. I have always been able to attend to my duties ever since, in fact, am able to work in the garden as well as in my house. I heartily recommend S. S. S. to all who may feel the need of a thoroughly good blood tonic. Yours truly, 44 W. 9th St., Columbia, Tenn. MRS. J. A. BRITAIN.

### HIS SKIN MADE CLEAR.

The doctors said I had pustular Eczema; it would break out in small white pustules, mostly on my face and hands, discharging a sticky fluid; crusts would form and drop off, leaving the skin red and inflamed. I was tormented with the itching and burning characteristic of the disease. During the time used various medicated soaps, ointments and washes, but these applications seemed to make me worse. After taking S. S. S. a short time I began to improve; the itching did not worry me so much. I continued the medicine, and soon all the ugly eruptions disappeared and my skin is now as clear as anybody's. I have not been troubled since. Urbana, Ohio. E. E. KELLY.

As a result the blood grows thick and sluggish, the Liver, Kidneys, Bowels and other avenues of bodily waste become inactive and dull, failing to carry out the poisons which form in the system, and these are absorbed by the blood. Then when warm weather comes the blood is stirred to quicker action and begins to throw off these poisons, and they find lodgment in the system and produce disorders of various kinds.

The time to prepare for Summer is before any warning symptoms are felt or the seeds of disease have time to get too deeply rooted in the blood. The blood should be cleansed and every part of the system put in good working order, so we can start the trying summer season fully prepared to withstand the disorders and diseases it brings.

S. S. S., the recognized king of blood purifiers, is the remedy with which to prepare the system for summer. It not only builds up the constitution, but goes down into the blood and searches out all poisons that have accumulated during the Winter, as well as those that may be lurking there from old chronic troubles. It is a tonic and appetizer without an equal, and in cases of debility, weakness, nervousness and that fagged out, run-down condition it is unexcelled. Every part of the system is toned up and rejuvenated by this great remedy. There is one feature of S. S. S. that is possessed by it alone; it is entirely vegetable, while other blood medicines on the market contain Potash or some other harmful mineral ingredient to derange the stomach and digestion, or otherwise damage the system.

The way to prepare for Summer properly is to get the blood pure and strong with S. S. S., the leader of all blood medicines and the best of tonics. Our book on the blood and any medical advice wished will be sent, without charge, to all who write.

THE SWIFT SPECIFIC COMPANY, ATLANTA, GA.

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The little coupon which is appended to the bottom of this advertisement, mailed to me, will bring you a book which has opened the eyes of thousands of suffering men and women to the newest, easiest, and cheapest way to health and vigor. It is yours, sent by mail, free, if you will send this coupon.

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No man should suffer the loss of that vital element which renders life worth living. No man should allow himself to become less a man than nature intended him; no man should suffer for the sins of his youth, when there is at hand a certain cure for his weakness, a check to his waste of power. Most of the pains, most of the weakness of stomach, heart, brain and nerves, from which men suffer are due to an early loss of nature's reserve power through mistakes of youth. You need not suffer for this. You can be restored. The very element which you have lost you can get back, and you may be as happy as any man that lives.

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Murray, Ida., Dec. 16, 1904.

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